(c) what are Government's plans to upgrade the existing domestic airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The Government of India has accorded approval to the State Government of Goa's proposal to construct a new airport of international standards at Mopa. This proposal is at a preliminary stage.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has constructed a new international terminal building to cater to 500 passengers during peak hours. Domestic terminal building has been expanded and modified to cater to 700 passengers during peak hours. The civil apron has also been extended for parking more aircraft. AAI has plans to carry out internal modifications in the existing terminal building for better passengers flow.

Selection of Pilots by IA

922. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have decided to hire a fresh batch of pilots by passing the mandatory written exam and group discussion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of candidates in the batch of 22, who are sons/daughters of the present Indian Airlines pilots/officers and are to be selected only on the basis of the interview; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the candidates selected only on the basis of interview do not supersede the trainee pilots presently undergoing training at IA Academy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted by Indian Airlines to examine the issues of recruitment of

Senior Trainee Pilots, in the background of a decision to induct four additional leased A-320 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines. The Committee took into consideration the existing practice, the experience of the Company, the changing scenario of aviation and in particular the practice adopted by Airlines of repute all over the world. The Committee recommended that with the changing market environment in the Civil Aviation and need to add capacity, Indian Airlines should aim at getting experienced pilots with 500 hours of Airlines Jet experience in the shortest possible time.

For Senior Trainee Pilots, the training period is approx. 17—20 weeks which is much less than that of Trainee Pilots. Moreover, Senior Trainee Pilots are released much earlier to fly as regular cockpit crew members. This also results in substantial savings in the training cost. The training programme drawn for Senior Trainee Pilots has the approval of DGCA.

The Committee was also of the view that since only experienced pilots on jets are eligible, there is no need to be subjected to a written test or group discussion. Instead, they should be subjected to Jet Simulator Proficiency Assessment checks which will be carried out by a DGCA approved examiner alongwith a nominee of the DGCA who would be from the Flight Inspection Directorate of DGCA, and those who qualify will appear for interview. Accordingly, Indian Airlines issued an advertisement and staff employment notice in August 2001 for 20 posts of Sr. Trainee Pilots.

(c) Out of 174 applications received, 22 met the eligibility criteria and were called for Simulator Proficiency Assessment Checks conducted by a duty constituted Technical Board. 17 candidates appeared. The qualifying candidates will appear for the interview. There is only one candidate who happens to be the son of a serving Indian Airlines Pilot.

(d) In accordance with the existing guidelines, the inter-se-seniority amongst the batch is determined on the basis of performance during training. The inter-batch seniority shall

however, be determined on the basis of completion of training by a batch and absorption of the batch in the regular cadre of Pilots in Indian Airlines as Second Officers.

Upgradation of Begumpet Airport Hyderabad

923. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any target has been set to complete the runway at Begumpet, Hyderabad to accommodate smooth landing of huge aircraft such as Boeing 747;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has called for tenders for this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the other infrastructural facilities and the technological upgradation proposed to be provided at Begumpet Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ-HUSSAIN): (a) The runway at Hyderabad Airport will be strengthened and extended upto 10,500 feet for operation of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) Class of Aircraft which will also cater B-747 operations with load restrictions. Probable date of completion is June, 2003.

(b) and (c) Tenders for the extension and strengthening for the runway work have been opened and the work is likely to be awarded in November, 2001.

(d) The airport is equipped with all modern communication and navigational aids. The work of new link taxi-track and isolation bay is likely to be completed by March, 2002. The airconditioning of the domestic terminal is likely to be completed by February, 2002. Internal modification in the international terminal building are carried out to improve space utilisation for better passenger comfort. The Airport Information Management System through intranet has been commissioned for greater customer satisfaction.